ST and all students in the elementary stage in the year 2004-05 are 89.9%, 98.8%, 102.4% and 93.5% respectively.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for strengthening of school infrastructure, more access to schools, cenrtain educational incentives, additional support through National Programme of Education of Girls at Elementary Level and residential facilities at upper primary level under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme. Further, to target SC and ST children, interventions, *inter-alia*, free text books, remedial teaching and innovationa are provided. The Mid Day Meal Scheme provides for cooked meals to school children, helping in improving retention.

Chairman of National Book Trust

947. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the term of Chairman, National Book Trust has expired;

(b) if so, whether Government has started the process of selection of a new Chairman or is planning to extend the term of the present Chairman; and

(c) what are the selection processes for Chairman and Director of the said organization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The term of the present Chairman has been extended until further orders. There are no Recruitment Rules for the selection of Chairman, National Book Trust (NBT), who is appointed by the Central Government on its discretion. A Search-cum-Selection Committee consisting of eminent persons had been constituted for suggesting a panel of suitable names for consideration of the government for this position.

According to the Recruitment Rules, Director, NBT is recruited by selection through open advertisement for five years in the first instance, renewable on the recommendations of the Executive Committee for one or more terms without repeating the process of selection, or by deputation. The appointment/renewal of contract is subject to approval of the Government of India.

Non-Provincialised L.P. Schools in Assam

948. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-provincialise L.P. schools in Assam;

(b) the steps being taken to provincialise those schools; and

(c) whether the Union Government would make any specific policy to take up those schools for provincialisation during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The information is not centrally maintained. However, Non-provincialised Lower Primary (L.P.) schools are not covered under the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. There is no provision to set up L.P. level Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas under Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme in the country including in Assam. Kendriya

Vidyalayas are composite co-educational schools having classes from I to XII.

(c) Does not arise.

Discovery of India in the curriculum

949. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered to include the book Discovery of India by Jawaharlal Nehru, translated in all regional languages, to be a part of the curriculum of all graduate students in the country; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not considering it, as this book is a masterpiece and all Indians should read it to know more about our history and culture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The University Grants Commission only provides Model Curricula to all the universities. The universities enjoy academic autonomy and it is for them to prescribe books in their curriculum.

Revamping of AICTE

950. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. K. KESHAVA RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has submitted its report for revamping the All India council for Technical Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have expressed their reservations on some of these recommendation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Relevant extracts from the "Compilation of Recommendations on Education" published by the National knowledge Commission (NKC) in Novermber, 2007 are enclosed as Statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission would be consulting State Governments on the recommendation of the National Knowledge Commission.

Statement

Copy of Relevant Extracts regarding revamping of AICTE

"4. Regulation

There is a clear need to establish an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE). Such a regulatory authority is both necessary and desirable.